Debt Under Collections

1020. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks follow a practice of technically wirtting off a bad debt but keeping it in the form of debt under collection to pursue recovery; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of bad debts finally written off and of technically written off by each of the Public Sector Banks including State Bank of India and Associate Banks at the end of each of the financial year 1969 to 1993/94?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some of the public sector banks follow the practice of technically writting off bad debts.

(b) RBI has reported that the information regarding the amounts of bad debts actually written off and technically written off by public sector banks since 1969 is not available. However information for the years 1984 to 1994 is given at Annexures. [*See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 30]

Construction of Airport at Bombay in collaboration with Hindujas

1021. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government is considering the construction of one more Airport at Bombay in collaboration with Hindujas;

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government has sought the permission from the Central Government for such a project;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government has given its consent; and

(d) if not, what is the stand of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) There was a news item that Memorandum of Understanding between State Industrial Corporation of Maharashtra and Airport Alliance, an international consortium was signed in London for a pre-feasibility study on second international airport for Bombay. The State Government have been asked to furnish details relating to the news item.

Share Certificates to the Investors

1022. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many firms are not issuing share certificates to the investors even after the due dates are over;

(b) if so, how many firms have completed the obligation of issuing share certificates; and

(c) what steps are taken to ensure the timely issuance of share certificates to the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Section 113 of the Companies Act, 1956, provides for prosecution of the company and every officer of the company who is in default in complying with the time-limit for allotment of securities.

Reduction of Import Duty on Base Metals

1023. SHRI YERRA NAYARANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SCOPE has represented to the Finance Ministry against reduction of import duty on base metals;